

The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

Fighting for the rights of injured people

Tackling negligence - preventing needless injury - reducing costs

APIL has been fighting for the rights of injured people for 20 years. Our members support the continued development of a modern and fair civil justice system based on rights and responsibilities, and with the consumer at its heart.

Rights of the consumer

A right not to be injured needlessly, through negligence:

- at work
- by the medical profession
- on the roads

A right to fair redress:

- people with devastating injuries need proper compensation to help them live independently and with dignity
- bereaved families whose loved ones have died needlessly need proper compensation to show their loss is taken seriously
- workers who are injured or dying because of their employers' negligence should have recourse to a compensation fund of last resort if they cannot claim compensation through any other means

A right to independent legal advice:

- injured consumers must retain the right of access to professional independent legal assistance
- attempts to erode this right puts profit and costs before the genuine needs of vulnerable people
- strict new rules are needed to ensure injured people are dealt with consistently and fairly by the justice system, after suffering a needless injury

Responsibilities

A responsibility not to injure someone unnecessarily through your own negligence

- until it happens to you, it is easy to forget that needless injury causes pain, disruption and, in the worst cases, can shatter lives

A responsibility of the negligent party, not the state, to provide full and fair redress for needless injuries

- the state should not have to support someone while he is off work recovering from needless injuries
- the NHS should not have to pay for his treatment
- the local authority should not have to fund adaptations to his home to improve his quality of life

A responsible debate

- proper education and debate is needed to make sure people understand the difference between a genuine accident and irresponsible negligence, and how to identify the former and avoid the latter

About the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

APIL is a not-for-profit organisation with almost 5,000 members across the UK, all of whom practise personal injury law on behalf of injured people.

Our key objectives are:

- To campaign for improvements in personal injury law
- To promote safety and alert the public to hazards wherever they arise
- To promote full and just compensation for all types of personal injury and wiser redress for injured people in the legal system

Detailed briefings about all the issues in this document, along with further information about the law as it relates to injured people in general, are available from:

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